

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0023] of the Detailed Description with the following:

Fig. 2 illustrates solenoid 32 in a de-energized position. In this position, a movable magnetic object such as an armature 44 or plunger is separated from permanent magnet 38 by the non-magnetic spacer 42. When in a de-energized position, i.e., zero or very little current induced in coil 36, armature 44 has no polarity and is therefore attracted to and takes on the characteristics of the permanent magnet 38. In this regard, the attractive force created between the armature and the permanent magnet is such to hold the armature 44 against the non-magnetic spacer 42. One skilled in the art will appreciate that the thickness of spacer 42 may be varied to achieve a desired holding force such that the amount of energy or force required to release the armature upon energization may be regulated for a particular application. A return spring 46 and an adapter 48 may optionally be used and connected to armature 44 to further bias the actuator against spacer 42. In this regard, the force imposed on the armature 44 is additive between the spring and the magnet. This allows for a higher force to be available out of the solenoid in the at-rest or de-energized position. When the coil is energized, however, the armature 44 is magnetically polarized via shunt components similar to the magnet 38. As a result, the repulsive force between the magnet 38 and the armature 44 adds to the attracting force between the attracting stud 56 and the armature 44 and must be sufficient to overcome the bias of return spring 46.